

N E W S R E L E A S E

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California's Unemployment Rate Unchanged At 7.7 Percent

SACRAMENTO – California's unemployment rate was 7.7 percent in September, and nonfarm payroll jobs declined by 11,600 during the month, according to data released today by the California Employment Development Department (EDD) from two separate surveys.

The U.S. unemployment rate was unchanged at 6.1 percent in September.

In August, the state's unemployment rate was 7.7 percent, and in September 2007, the unemployment rate was 5.6 percent. The unemployment rate is derived from a federal survey¹ of 5,500 California households.

Nonfarm jobs in California decreased by 11,600 over the month, for a total of 15,092,400, according to an EDD survey² that is larger and less variable statistically. The survey of 42,000 California businesses measures jobs in the economy. The year-over-year (September 2007 to September 2008) change shows a decrease of 77,200 jobs (down 0.5 percent).

EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT IN CALIFORNIA

The federal survey of households¹, done with a smaller sample than the state employer study, shows an increase in the number of employed people. It estimates the number of Californians holding jobs in September was 17,067,000, an increase of 73,000 from August, but down 150,000 from the employment total in September of last year.

(more)

¹ U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics' (BLS) monthly survey of about 5,500 California households measures employment and unemployment levels of wage and salary workers in both agricultural and non-agricultural industries (including domestics and other private household workers), self-employed persons, and unpaid workers who worked 15 hours or more during the survey week in family-operated enterprises. Approximately 9.5 percent of these workers are self-employed. Persons who are working at more than one job are counted as employed only once. Labor force statistics, including the unemployment rate, for California and every other state are based on statistical models specified by the BLS.

² EDD's monthly survey of approx. 42,000 California businesses collects information on the number of wage and salary employees on the payrolls of nonfarm establishments for that month. Most economists put more weight on payroll numbers because they are derived from a larger survey sample than the federal household survey. Individuals who hold more than one job are counted once for each job in this survey. Unlike the federal household survey, the EDD survey does not count self-employed persons.

The number of people unemployed in California was 1,425,000 – up by 4,000 over the month, and up by 398,000 compared with September of last year.

Of the unemployed, 548,300 were laid off, 133,800 left their jobs voluntarily, and the remaining were either new entrants or reentrants into the labor market, or persons who completed temporary jobs, according to the federal household survey.

PAYROLL EMPLOYMENT DETAIL (SEASONALLY ADJUSTED³)

EDD's report on payroll employment (wage and salary jobs) in the nonfarm industries of California totaled 15,092,400 in September, a net loss of 11,600 jobs since the August survey. This followed a loss of 12,700 jobs (as revised) in August.

Five of the categories (**natural resources and mining; manufacturing; information; educational and health services; and leisure and hospitality**) added jobs over the month, gaining 7,200 jobs. Information showed the largest gain, up by 2,300 jobs. Six categories (**construction; trade, transportation and utilities; financial activities; professional and business services; other services; and government**) reported job declines this month, down 18,800 jobs. Trade, transportation and utilities posted the largest decline over the month, down by 6,300 jobs.

In a year-over-year comparison (September 2007 to September 2008), nonfarm payroll employment in California decreased by 77,200 jobs (down 0.5 percent).

Six industry divisions (**natural resources and mining; professional and business services; educational and health services; leisure and hospitality; other services; and government**) posted job gains over the year, adding 98,700 jobs. Educational and health services showed the strongest gain on a numerical basis, adding 48,100 jobs (a 2.9 percent increase). On a percentage of growth basis, natural resources and mining showed the strongest gain, up 4.3 percent (adding 1,100 jobs).

Five categories (**construction; manufacturing; trade, transportation and utilities; information; and financial activities**) posted job declines over the year, down 175,900 jobs. Construction employment showed the largest decline on both a numerical and percentage basis, down by 76,700 jobs (a decline of 8.7 percent).

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE CLAIMS (NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED)

In related data, the EDD reported that there were 500,962 people receiving regular unemployment insurance benefits during the September survey week. This compares with 504,667 last month and 345,187 last year. At the same time, new claims for unemployment insurance were 53,418 in September 2008, compared with 51,731 in August and 39,993 in September of last year.

NOTE TO EDITORS: EDD encourages those who are filing for unemployment insurance benefits to do so on-line through our Web site at www.edd.ca.gov. On-line claim filing is the fastest, most convenient way to apply for unemployment benefits, and is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Seasonally adjusted payroll detail follows:

PAYROLL EMPLOYMENT, SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA³

(Amounts in thousands)

Industrial Classification	September 2008 (prelim.)	August 2008 (revised)	September 2007	Change Over 12 months (Percent)
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Workers	15,092.4	15,104.0	15,169.6	-0.5
Natural resources and mining	26.9	26.8	25.8	4.3
Construction	804.4	808.4	881.1	-8.7
Manufacturing	1,431.4	1,430.0	1,456.6	-1.7
Trade, transportation and utilities	2,883.3	2,889.6	2,919.1	-1.2
Information	474.9	472.6	481.7	-1.4
Financial activities	864.8	868.1	896.2	-3.5
Professional and business services	2,273.7	2,274.7	2,262.1	0.5
Educational and health services	1,723.0	1,721.0	1,674.9	2.9
Leisure and hospitality	1,564.2	1,562.8	1,553.1	0.7
Other services	515.5	516.3	514.9	0.1
Government*	2,530.3	2,533.7	2,504.1	1.0
Agriculture	394.7	395.1	396.2	-0.4

*Includes all civilian employees of federal, state, and local governments.

TABLE A
EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT IN CALIFORNIA, SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA³

	September 2008 (prelim.)	August 2008 (revised)	July 2008	September 2007
Civilian labor force ^a	18,492,000	18,415,000	18,409,000	18,244,000
Total civilian employment	17,067,000	16,994,000	17,053,000	17,217,000
Unemployment	1,425,000	1,421,000	1,356,000	1,027,000
Seasonally adjusted rate %	7.7	7.7	7.4	5.6
US seasonally adjusted rate % .	6.1	6.1	5.7	4.7

TABLE B
EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT IN CALIFORNIA, UNADJUSTED DATA

	September 2008 (prelim.)	August 2008 (revised)	July 2008	September 2007
Civilian labor force ^a	18,480,000	18,531,000	18,555,000	18,262,000
Total civilian employment	17,096,000	17,110,000	17,143,000	17,277,000
Unemployment	1,384,000	1,420,000	1,412,000	985,000
Unadjusted rate %	7.5	7.7	7.6	5.4

^a Labor force by place of residence including workers involved in trade disputes.³ Seasonal adjustment is a statistical method that removes typical employment patterns that occur at various times throughout the year (e.g., additional retail hiring during the holiday season).

**MONTHLY LABOR FORCE DATA FOR COUNTIES
SEPTEMBER 2008 (Preliminary); 2007 BENCHMARK
NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED**

COUNTY	LABOR FORCE	EMPLOYMENT	UNEMPLOYMENT	RATE
STATE TOTAL	18,480,100	17,096,400	1,383,700	7.5%
ALAMEDA	764,800	713,200	51,600	6.7%
ALPINE	480	420	60	12.5%
AMADOR	18,780	17,330	1,450	7.7%
BUTTE	106,900	98,200	8,700	8.1%
CALAVERAS	21,810	19,910	1,900	8.7%
COLUSA	10,980	10,020	970	8.8%
CONTRA COSTA	532,400	496,900	35,500	6.7%
DEL NORTE	11,800	10,820	970	8.2%
EL DORADO	95,600	89,100	6,500	6.8%
FRESNO	447,800	405,000	42,800	9.6%
GLENN	13,060	11,830	1,230	9.4%
HUMBOLDT	61,800	57,600	4,200	6.8%
IMPERIAL	74,100	55,900	18,200	24.5%
INYO	9,220	8,570	660	7.1%
KERN	369,000	334,700	34,200	9.3%
KINGS	60,800	55,200	5,600	9.3%
LAKE	26,560	23,910	2,650	10.0%
LASSEN	13,360	12,250	1,110	8.3%
LOS ANGELES	4,944,300	4,557,900	386,400	7.8%
MADERA	67,400	61,700	5,600	8.4%
MARIN	139,600	133,000	6,600	4.7%
MARIPOSA	9,990	9,310	680	6.8%
MENDOCINO	44,880	42,020	2,860	6.4%
MERCED	107,100	95,400	11,700	10.9%
MODOC	4,020	3,690	330	8.3%
MONO	7,600	7,060	540	7.1%
MONTEREY	218,200	203,900	14,300	6.6%
NAPA	76,500	72,600	4,000	5.2%
NEVADA	51,480	48,100	3,370	6.5%
ORANGE	1,637,700	1,543,600	94,100	5.7%
PLACER	177,200	165,000	12,200	6.9%
PLUMAS	11,050	10,260	780	7.1%
RIVERSIDE	929,000	840,400	88,700	9.5%
SACRAMENTO	703,600	649,500	54,100	7.7%
SAN BENITO	25,400	23,400	2,000	7.9%
SAN BERNARDINO	898,900	822,100	76,800	8.5%
SAN DIEGO	1,573,800	1,473,200	100,600	6.4%
SAN FRANCISCO	445,800	420,600	25,200	5.6%
SAN JOAQUIN	304,500	273,500	31,000	10.2%
SAN LUIS OBISPO	138,200	129,800	8,400	6.1%
SAN MATEO	389,900	370,300	19,700	5.0%
SANTA BARBARA	219,500	207,300	12,200	5.6%
SANTA CLARA	876,500	819,700	56,800	6.5%
SANTA CRUZ	152,000	142,800	9,200	6.1%
SHASTA	87,700	79,300	8,300	9.5%
SIERRA	1,710	1,570	130	7.8%
SISKIYOU	19,850	18,120	1,730	8.7%
SOLANO	214,900	199,200	15,600	7.3%
SONOMA	269,700	253,900	15,800	5.8%
STANISLAUS	240,100	214,900	25,200	10.5%
SUTTER	41,800	37,400	4,400	10.5%
TEHAMA	26,170	23,850	2,320	8.9%
TRINITY	5,390	4,850	540	10.0%
TULARE	196,900	175,900	21,000	10.6%
TUOLUMNE	26,910	24,810	2,100	7.8%
VENTURA	430,600	400,500	30,100	7.0%
YOLO	97,200	90,500	6,700	6.9%
YUBA	28,000	24,600	3,400	12.1%